

"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues, developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."

January 6, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The influenza virus called "H1N1 flu" or "Swine flu" is circulating in the United States. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Central District Health Department (CDHD) recommends that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against H1N1 influenza virus. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

CDHD is working with your child's school to make the H1N1 influenza vaccine available to children at school. **This vaccine is free and is optional.** As supplies allow, we will be administering nasal spray vaccine for all children except for those who have recently received the seasonal influenza nasal spray vaccine or have certain medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Section 5 of the enclosed Nasal Spray Vaccine Information Statement lists conditions that exclude children from getting this vaccine. Children who cannot receive the nasal spray vaccine can receive the flu shot. We may not have enough nasal spray vaccine to cover every child who is eligible to receive it. If we run out of nasal spray vaccine, your child will receive the flu shot. If you do not wish for your child to receive a flu shot, please indicate "nasal spray only" on his or her consent form recognizing that if we are out of nasal spray they will not be vaccinated at school.

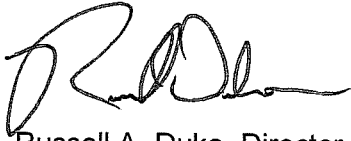
If your child is not available to get the vaccine the day of his or her school clinic, he or she can still get the **free** vaccine from one of the Central District Health Department public vaccination clinics. Please visit our website at www.cdhd.idaho.gov or call our H1N1 hotline at 321-2222 for clinic dates and locations.

In addition, children under 10 years of age need two doses of vaccine spaced at least 4 weeks apart. We will be administering second doses at the school based clinics for those who are due. Please have your child bring the H1N1 vaccination card from their first dose to the school clinic, if possible.

Enclosed in this packet are the H1N1 Vaccine Information Statements and the Consent Form. **Please keep the Vaccine Information Statements for your records, and complete the Consent Form and return it to the school as soon as possible if you would like your child to be vaccinated.** If you completed a consent form for a school clinic that was canceled, this form is no longer valid and a new consent form will need to be completed. You will also need to complete this consent form if your child is due for a second dose of vaccine and you wish for him or her to be vaccinated. **If your child does not present a current consent form at the time of the clinic, your child will not be vaccinated at the school clinic.**

Your child's school will provide information on the date and time his or her clinic will take place. You may also find a copy of our full school clinic schedule and any updated information on our website at www.cdhd.idaho.gov. You may obtain additional information about the H1N1 virus and vaccine on our website or you may call our hotline at 321-2222 weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell A. Duke', with a stylized, cursive script.

Russell A. Duke, Director
Central District Health Department

Enclosures